

Message Text

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ACTION INR-05

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1535

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, UR
SUBJECT: NEW DRAFT SOVIET CONSTITUTION

REF: A) STATE 130063,
B) MOSCOW 7916

1. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS ON SOVIET DRAFT CONSTITUTION
MADE BY SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN BERLIN:

2. AT RECEPTION JUNE 7, SOVIET CONGEN OFFICIAL AND KNOWN
KGB CHIEF IN WEST BERLIN KOZOBRODOV TOLD MISOFF THAT NEW
CONSTITUTION REPLACES " REVOLUTIONARY" DRAFT THAT KHRUSHCHEV
SOUGHT TO FORCE THROUGH. KOZOBRODOV SAID THAT KHRUSHCHEV
SEEMED GO WANT MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY IN USSR OR, AT
MINIMUM, SEVRAL CANDIDATES FOR EACH POSITION IN ELECTIONS.
IN HIS CUSTOMARY SARCASTIC VEIN, KOZOBRODOV ADDED THAT
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OF COURSE WE CAN'T HAVE DEMOCRACY IN USSR. HE SAID
THAT BREZHNEV HAD PUT A HALT TO ENTIRE EXERCISE AFTER
KHRUSHCHEV'S OUSTER.

3. ASKED WHETHER UPCOMING " DISCUSSION" WOULD INCLUDE
CRITICISM, KOZOBRODOV REPLIED " OF COURSE NOT." THEN,
HE THOUGHT AGAIN AND REMARKED:" UNLESS IT IS CON-

STRUCTIV CRITICISM". ASKED FOR AN EXAMPLE OF " CON-
STRUCTIVE CRITICISM.", KOZOBRODOV SAID THAT IF EVERYONE
IN THE SOVIET UNION WERE TO INSIST THAT THE POSITION
OF GENERAL SECRETARY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME
SOVIET SHOULD BE OCCUPIED BY THE SAME MAN, I.E.
BREZHNEV, THEN THAT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM
OF THE PRESENT DRAFT.

4. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST
SECRETARY YUDIN TOLD RIAS EMPLOYEE THAT BREZHNEV IS
AMBITIOUS, INTENDS TO BE HEAD OF STATE AND WANTS TO
BE REMEMBRED AS THE MAN WHO CHANGED THE SOVIET
CONSTITUTION . HE WANTS TO INHERIT STALIN'S MANTLE
ACROSS THE BOARD. PODGORNYY OPPOSED BREZHNEV AT EVERY
TURN IN THIS SCHEME. SO WHEN PODGORNYY WENT AWAY
TO AFRICA, BREZHNEV CALLED THE POLITBURO TOGETHER
AND INDUED THEM TO : 1) ADOPT THE NEW CONSTITUTION;
AND 2) FIRE PODGORNYY.
GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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